

Clayton County 911 Service Board

Minutes

September 25th, 2024

Call Meeting to Order

Meeting called to order at 1830 hrs by Chair Joe Zittergruen.

Members Present

Samantha Rumph (911 Coordinator), Nioka Schroeder (Garber), Darren Nading (Volga), Marcus Kahrs (St. Olaf), Sarah Moser (EMA), Joe Zittergruen (Guttenberg), Ken Hoeger (Elkader), Dean Courtnage (Strawberry Point), Robert Millin (McGregor), Chris Scott (Sheriff's Office), Doug Reimer (Board of Supervisors), & Jeremy Schmelzer (Garnavillo).

Guests: Derrick Eilers (Luana Fire), Ryan Glaw (Luana Fire), Matt Baade (Luana Fire), Preston Landt (Monona Fire), Travis Torkelson (Farmersburg Fire), Russ Crawmer (City of McGregor), Nic Stelkan (Strawberry Point), and Eric Van Horn (Garnavillo PD).

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Ken. Second by Sarah. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Jeremy. Second by Nioka. Motion carried unanimously.

911 Updates

EMD went live the week following our last board meeting in July. The dispatchers are getting used to it and Chris discussed quality assurance being done through the program & having a better way to give the dispatchers feedback.

The dispatch remodel is underway. Everything was torn out of dispatch the week of September 16th. Palmer Electric has been working ever since and have a few days of work left to do. Chris decided to replace the ceiling and that work is being done Friday September 27th. Painting is scheduled for the beginning of the following week and flooring on October 3rd. They will begin moving the dispatch equipment back into the comm center October 8th and that will take a couple days. RACOM ended up doing the work to move our radio consoles as Comelec gave a quote for \$16,500 and after repeated requested for an itemization of how that figure was arrived at, they would not provide it nor would they provide anticipated hours of work, and would not put a provision on the estimate stating its an estimate only and the 911 Board would be billed at true hours worked. RACOM is charging time and materials - \$165 per hour per technician.

The IT Director, Matt Sherman is no longer employed with Clayton County. For the time being, Bob (IT staff) is the point of contact. Sam sent Bob all documentation leading up to this point for the dispatch remodel so he could be brought up to speed. Sam will send Bob the list of equipment that was supposed to be ordered to make sure it was and then Chris can verify what he has in his

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possession already. On September 4th, a VMUX went bad in Strawberry Point leaving little to no radio communication during an emergent call. A VMUX also went bad at the McGregor Heights location on September 18th. The replacement used was the last spare we had. Comelec advised they cannot get replacements for the models we have now, so they will have to replace two at a time as they are a pair and can't have different models at each end of the communication. Sam has requested a quote for a pair, but has not received that back from Comelec yet.

Radio Project Updates

Shelters for all three P25 sites have arrived and have been inspected. All generators have arrived and are ready to be delivered when the sites are ready. Two new towers have been stacked, inspected, and grounding completed at Volga and Garber. Both of these are ready for paging equipment install when that time comes. Sam is working on getting the construction scheduled for fiber installation at Eagle Drive pending the civil crew completing their work first. We are currently a week or two behind the original construction schedule Finish provided. Everything is staked out for site preparedness at Eagle Drive for the civil crew to start working. Civil crew work has started at Guttenberg Water Tower. One of the concrete slabs has been poured and rock hauled in, Finish is continuing to work at this site. The tower modifications construction is due to start in 1-2 weeks and will take approximately 10 days to complete. This includes a new railing/corral and adding additional anchor bolts. The civil work has not started at NEIT yet as Guttenberg and Eagle Drive are scheduled first. However, all modification construction to the tower itself is complete, so once the civils are done the tower is ready for equipment installation. With all the infrastructure issues we've encountered, Sam discussed having reached a point in the project where it should be accepted that we need to do things the right way and cost effectively instead of focusing solely on hitting a due date and rushing to make that happen. Installation of subscriber equipment is an unknown at this time, will be sometime in 2025 and not happening in 2024. Pyramid flew here September 24th and 25th to work on the VRS issues the sheriff's office has been experiencing. More deputy vehicles were turned on yesterday for testing. Firmware and programming changes were made for testing. Another issue discovered is Allamakee County & Delaware County have the same receive frequency. Just something to note at this time.

Paging System

With all the structural issues we've encountered thus far, a discussion was had on a project team meeting about revisiting the idea of Dical digital paging instead of two one voice paging. Because of the structural items that need to be addressed from the previous legacy system, this is one area we could save funds and put them towards those items that need to be taken care of. Reviewed pros and cons (listed below). At this time, this is just a discussion for transparency about funds and options. Sam is waiting for the structural analysis for the four remaining water towers (Elkader,

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Garnavillo, Strawberry Point, and Monona) to come back to know if modifications will need to be done to them. At this point, if modifications need to be done we will need to discuss moving to Dical paging or finding additional funding for the project. If those water towers pass the structural analysis, we can proceed with two tone voice paging as planned. Between change orders that saved some funds and the contingency money from the bond, there's approximately \$650,000 left to cover the sheriff's office tower, Chicken Ridge tower, all water towers, all remaining outstanding bills outside the contract, and any additional unforeseen items. Dean expressed having discussed this with the Strawberry Point Fire Department and not wanting digital paging. Preston stated it wouldn't be the preferred choice for Monona either. The consensus of those in attendance was to find out the structural status of all the water towers and revisit if needed, in hopes we will not have to go to digital paging. Darren discussed the bottom line of having to go to it if we don't have the funding. Sarah offered to look for grant money on her end and start planning ahead should we need to try to pull more funds. Nic suggested looking at extending the amount of the bond if we're still within the window to do so.

Dical:

Digital page (no voice)

1. UHF paging = better building penetration & potential for substantially better paging coverage
2. Reduced loading (no backhaul) - Chicken Ridge would not need to be modified
3. Would not be locked into going on the water towers (less equipment, more options) & a new Dical site is \$40-50k
4. Live scrolling text display in dispatch for sent pages (they will know for sure when the page goes through)
5. Back-up stand alone devices for paging if CAD interface ever fails
6. Faster paging

--Will be a huge change for responders

--Will need to carry a separate radio & pager unless equipment is purchased to get voice on a page channel on the portable radios.

--There's no voice- you will receive the address and the call type only

--Potentially look at buying more radios so responders could receive a voice update, will require a protocol with dispatch to not create multiple updates being given out/confusion. Could be explored after project completion due to funding.

Pagers \$355 each

Dical Paging System Cost \$620,273.31

*If departments already bought Harris pagers, RACOM will buy them back or credit the department to use towards Dical compatible pagers

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TAIT/Voice Paging:

Two tone voice paging (what we use currently)

1. Responders receive voice inflection and more details on the initial page
2. Will need to modify Chicken Ridge and potentially the other 4 water towers due to the current structural state not supporting the loading requirements
3. Better paging coverage than we have now (added Garber and Volga sites), but not as good as Dical
4. Radio will have page programmed into it, so no need to carry two pieces of equipment

Pagers (G5) \$733.50

TAIT Voice Paging System Cost \$1,151,603.54

*System cost total does not include modification costs for Chicken Ridge or potentially the other 4 water towers. Above system cost was accounted for in the bond.

Sheriff's Office Tower

Per our last meeting, the Sheriff's Office tower failed its structural analysis. Three options were given to us by RACOM. Modify the current tower (\$210,500), build a new tower with a shelter (\$396,000), or build a new tower with no shelter (\$274,125). With the tower being 18 years old and having a very limited amount of space in the equipment room of the Sheriff's Office, the recommendation by both MCM and RACOM is the new tower with a shelter option. RACOM also offered to allow us to make payments towards the tower over the next 1-3 budget cycles, the exact terms will be set once an option is chosen. The NEPA/SHPO report for the Sheriff's Office from when it was built was not able to be located by any county staff and will need to be redone by Edge. This means there will be a longer delay in starting construction. The prescreen showed no red flags, so Sam is cautiously optimistic this site will not run into the issues Eagle Drive did during its NEPA/SHPO approval. Sam will also speak with the Sheriff about removing a small shed behind the office where the new tower will be erected. Motion made by Darren, second by Robert to build a new tower with a shelter. Roll call vote, all ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

Chicken Ridge Tower

The Chicken Ridge tower failed its structural analysis, however is able to be modified if we do equipment removal and installation in phases which is another reason for the overall timeline of the project being extended. If its not done in phases, the site is not modifiable and would have to be rebuilt entirely. MCM's best guess for the modifications is around \$100,000 based on a similar project for another client. Currently waiting to move forward with this site until the water tower

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analysis come back so the 911 Board can choose to move to Dical Paging or the TAIT Voice Paging option. If Dical is chosen, Chicken Ridge would not need modifications. Sam attempted to eliminate Chicken Ridge from the paging site configuration to save costs, however the design requires Chicken Ridge to push out coverage in the southern and south western part of the county.

Open Session/New Business

Dean stated he was approached by Edgewood about why they are not getting any radios provided to them since they cover a large portion of Clayton County. Joe advised Dean to relay to Edgewood they have a representative for the 911 Board and should discuss it with the board as a whole during a meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Marcus, second by Sarah. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2016.